

Request for Proposals for FY2006 funding under Fisheries and the Environment (FATE)

The FATE Steering Committee is requesting proposals to describe research projects for funding during FY2006 under the NOAA Fisheries program on Fisheries Oceanography known as Fisheries and the Environment (FATE). FATE is a research program that develops and evaluates ecological and oceanographic indices to be used to improve fishery stock assessments and advance our understanding of marine ecosystem dynamics.

To date, due to budget constraints, funding has largely been restricted to North Pacific projects (from both academic and NOAA investigators). However we are pleased to announce that we almost certainly will have sufficient funds this year to include support for projects based in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.

Included with this RFP is our Science Plan, written in 2002. In reading this plan, you will see that the focus of FATE is on research that delivers ecological or oceanographic indicators useful for detection of decadal change in stock productivity, shifts in ecosystem structure, or other stock assessment or management related problems. Proposals that represent collaborations between ecologists or oceanographers and scientists actively engaged in agency stock assessments with a goal of improving stock assessments by using FATE indices are especially encouraged. Proposals requesting a continuation of FATE funding should clearly identify how their results to date are contributing to FATE goals, especially to improving stock assessments. Note that FATE does not have a sufficient budget to support long-term ocean observations and does not support fishery oceanographic process studies. Additional details can be found on the FATE website: <http://www.pfel.noaa.gov/products/FATE2005/index.html>

Proposals describing the proposed research should not exceed 5 pages and should briefly address *Background*, *Approach*, *Benefits* (addressing how the results will be used in stock assessment or to benefit management), *Deliverables*, and *Cost*. Duration of the proposed research should not exceed two years and should clearly state objectives and include statements of work for both years one and two. The **Proposals should be e-mailed to Bill Peterson, NWFSC**, bill.peterson@noaa.gov, **by January 20, 2006**. The proposals will be reviewed both by an external panel composed of NOAA employees who are familiar with the FATE program, and by the FATE Scientific Steering Committee. Proposal evaluation will be completed by mid-February 2006 with funding decisions by 1 March 2006.